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AH QUIN

A man that was respected by all who knew him.

This man of China birth arrived in San Diego about ~~1868~~ 1879. He was thirty one years old at the time. (However Ah Quin arrived in the United States of America at a much earlier date).

His ability in handling men was soon recognized, when he employed over one thousand chinese coolies, to construct the roadbed for the railroad from National City to San Bernardino, starting about ~~1868~~. An engineering feat of that time, especially when financing such a project seemed inpractable, and when cheap land labor was en essential factor. He supervisored these poorly paid coolies with considered judgement, leaving an indelible impression within the very souls of those that sacrificed their all for the sake of advancing civilization.

Our own San Diego written history is no different from other notes of praise, that always glorifies men who possessed financial advantages, over the people that had the strength and the alility to accomplish the actual work, and made it possible for those financial tycons to succeed, and be the one's mentioned im the written history of successful events.

Just why Ah Quin and his one-thousand chinese coolies , whose tears sweat and blood were not mentioned in history or classified in their field is only a matter of conjecture. During this period of sweat and toil, Ah Quin journeyed to San Francisco, meet his choice and returned to San Diego with his bride. He raised a family of seven girls and five boys, all fine United States citizens.

He was able to construct a fine residence about 1874 in the stingaree (Chinatown) that eventualy meet the needs of his growing family. This residence still stands in 1956 as an example of good old western architecture, and has no parallel in style in southern California, and is still occupied by many of his family, and their offsprings.

Ah Quin
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George W. Marston, one of San Diego's outstanding citizens and successful business men was a friend of Al Quin and family. Police Chief Keno Wilson said Al Quin was without exception the finest Chinamen I ever knew.

I had the pleasure of meeting and enjoying the friendship of this honored oriental about 1909, on one of my first sanitary inspections in Chinatown. When he learned of my mission, he was the first to offer his hand, that lead to success.

Al Quin always worked hard, and never interferred with the business affairs of others. He accumulated wealth exceeding $ 50,000, and was regarded as one of the wealthiest chinamen in the south. Many of his offspring are graduates of the University of Southern California. Ah Quin's friendly and tolerant nature made him a successful leader among his people, especially when the tongs from the north decided to raise a little hell down in this border town. He always discouraged quarreling among factions.

His sixtysix years of useful life was suddenly brought to a tragic end February 1914, when Chas Mundel of San Diego struct him down at third near J street with a motorcycle on a saturday night, and then left the scene of the accident unreconized. I was at the post-mortem when it was first thought that heart failure was the cause of death. Dr Thompson of the health department did the surgery. It then was found Al Quin to be in perfect health, but when the top of his skull was removed a clot of blood answered the question. A call for the arrest of the hit and run culprit went out with vengeance. However in a few days, Chas Mundell of 1742 Boston street, gave himself up when he found out that his victim had died.

When San Wing, the rich oriental from Oceanside heard of Ah Quin's

Ah Quin (con't)

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death, he hurried in his auto to give aid and comfort to the Ah Quin family. Ah Quin embraced the christian religion and had a christian burial.

Ah Quin was a living example of good citizenship, thrift, and intergity and did not indulge in the accepted traffic of his community. He looked on the loveliness of the world and aided in correcting it's imperfections.

↑ FROM Bellon Memoirs WRONG

Ah Quin's daughter, Mary, wed Frederick Wong, the son of one of the biggest merchants in San Francisco, at a Methodist Christian Church service in San Francisco, bringing closer together San Diego and San Francisco chinese.

Henry Quin, a son of Ah Quin is a successful business man of long standing, and still lives in the home his father built.